

B2 TABLE 2

Loss of Water from Magnesium Heptahydrate on heating

Temperature °C No. of molecules of water lost

Ambient	1
70-80°C	4
100°C	5
120°C	6
250°C (Calcined)	7

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SUB
D1

1. (Twice Amended) A nutritional or pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more water containing components in which the water is releasably bound wherein CaO and anhydrous or calcined MgSO_4 are mixed in the composition in an amount capable of sequestering any water which may be released from the one or more water containing components to provide a continuous desiccant effect under normal handling conditions.

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4. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the CaO is present in an amount up to 10% by weight of the composition.

5. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein anhydrous or calcined MgSO_4 is present in an amount up to 10% by weight of the composition.

6. (Twice Amended) A composition as recited in claim 1, which further comprises an acid component and a carbonate and/or bicarbonate sufficient to cause said composition to effervesce in water.

7. (Twice Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein said acid component is calcium lactate.

8. (Once Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a sulphite.

9. (Once Amended) A composition premix comprising an acid or salt thereof in admixture with CaO and anhydrous or calcined MgSO_4 .

10. (Once Amended) The use of CaO and anhydrous or calcined MgSO_4 in the manufacture of a nutritional or pharmaceutical composition for the purpose of effectively removing/mopping up adventitious water.

11. (Once Amended) A method of manufacturing a nutritional or pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more components which contain water which is releasably bound wherein the manufacturing steps are conducted in the absence of special low humidity conditions and CaO and anhydrous or calcined MgSO_4 are intimately mixed in the product in an amount capable of sequestering any water which may be released from water containing components to provide a continuous desiccant effect.

12. (Once Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the CaO is present in an amount up to 10% by weight of the composition.